

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended, and new Claims 11-16 have been added. These amendments and new claims find support at, e.g., specification page 2, lines 15-16, page 3, lines 1-6, and page 3, lines 11-14. No new matter has been entered.

The present invention remedies the drawbacks of known two-material conduits used for the circulation of hot fuels, particularly in the case of high-efficiency diesel engines, by providing a system for supplying an internal combustion engine with a liquid fuel the system comprising, among other things, a two-material conduit in which the join between the constituent components is hermetically sealed and mechanically and thermally robust. As specified in Claim 1, Applicant's sealed composite junction conduit joins a pipe for the circulation of hot fuel between the engine and the tank to the tank and comprises at least two hollow components each based on a different plastic,<sup>1</sup> the components being mechanically attached to each other and in communication with each other and include, between them, an overmoulded hermetic seal. As pointed out in several new claims, hot fuel is typically present in such systems, as this is what they are designed to carry, the invention system being particularly useful in conjunction with high-efficiency diesel engines.

Benjy<sup>2</sup> does not relate to a system for supplying an internal combustion engine with a liquid fuel. Rather, the reference relates to a fuel tank vapor vent valve assembly that takes it shape in the form of a float operated valve for controlling venting of vapor from a motor vehicle fuel tank (col. 1, lines 19-20). Benjy concentrates on solving the problem of attaching such a valve body to a fuel tank (col. 1, lines 50-54; col. 2, lines 10-21) so as to avoid vapor leakage of fuel present in the tank at ambient temperature. Thus, Benjy necessarily does not

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<sup>1</sup> See specification page 4, lines 11-15 for a definition of the term "based on."

<sup>2</sup> It appears that the Examiner is relying on the issued patent from US 2002/0117206. The Examiner is requested to list US 6,484,741 on a PTOL-849.

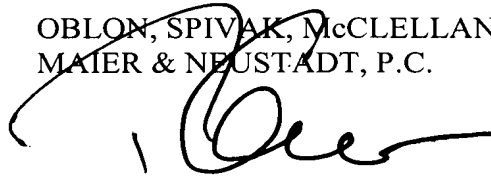
disclose a pipe for the circulation of hot fuel between the engine and the tank or at least one sealed composite junction conduit for joining the pipe to the tank, as presently claimed.

Secondary reference Muto fails to make up for that lacking in Benjy, as Muto is relied upon simply for a catching element, and secondary references Matsuoka and Wilson fail to make up for that lacking in Benjy, as Matsuoka and Wilson are relied upon only for the disclosure of particular materials.

Accordingly, and in view of the differences between what is claimed and what is disclosed by the cited references, even in combination, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and the passage of this case to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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